

space is often at the forefront of security or innovation, the work that the foundation does in promoting space education programs in all 50 States is critical. Furthermore, the Space Foundation's advocacy of peaceful and positive uses of outer space is crucial. Indeed, as John F. Kennedy, speaking in Houston, noted, "We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people."

Houston has long been at the center of the American exploration of space. The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston has been NASA's center for human spaceflight activities. Houston has served as the Mission Control Center for every space mission since *Gemini IV* and directs all space shuttle and International Space Station Missions. The Johnson Center is also home to astronaut training, and Houston is a hub of scientific and space-related research. Houston's connection to space exploration has made evident to me the potential for growth and discovery that space holds. This connection has also inspired in me a great amount of respect and support for those organizations and individuals who pursue an awareness of space for the fostering of a peaceful and prosperous world.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation with me. I believe that what the Space Foundation has accomplished through more than 25 years of diligent service is more than deserving of such a commemoration. Through their efforts in improving our commercial, national, and theoretical uses and understanding of space they have undoubtedly helped better our Nation.

HOMES FOR HEROES ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Homes for Heroes Act, H.R. 3329.

The Homes for Heroes Act establishes a \$200 million a year assistance program for supportive housing and services for low income homeless veterans and their families at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, and requires at least 20,000 rental housing vouchers a year be made available to homeless veterans and their families. This important bill also creates a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs within HUD and requires HUD to submit an annual report to Congress on housing needs for veterans.

Veterans are overrepresented in the homeless population and the VA is the largest single provider of direct services to homeless veterans. According to the VA, the number of homeless veterans has declined 21 percent in the past year, however there are still 154,000 homeless veterans including 1,500 from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The men and women of the armed forces who have served this country with honor deserve the support and resources they need to overcome mental, physical, and emotional wounds caused by war. Congress must continue fighting to ensure they receive the high-

est level of care and compensation they have so bravely earned serving this country.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE DAILY 45: ROBERT WASHINGTON AND TWO OTHER VICTIMS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Early this morning, Robert Washington of Chicago was found dead in his home with a gunshot wound to the neck.

In Wisconsin, Travis Mills was shot last Saturday morning with a small-caliber handgun and in Rockaway, Queens, a young man was fatally shot. The 18-year-old was pronounced dead at the scene.

Three more lives lost. We must become our brother's keeper. Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WEST CREEK CONFLUENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a "Concrete Breaking" celebration at the confluence of West Creek and the Cuyahoga River in the city of Independence in Ohio's 10th Congressional District.

The West Creek—Cuyahoga River Confluence Restoration Project implements the vision expressed in both the city of Independence Master Plan and West Creek Watershed Plan by restoring a 10-acre vacant industrial site where West Creek meets the Cuyahoga River in Independence, Ohio. The property currently contains approximately 85% impervious surface, contributing significant non-point source pollution which flows directly into West Creek and the Cuyahoga. The property and this entire area have flooded repeatedly during recent storm events and is at the center of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 205 study to find the best way to mitigate flood damage. The restoration includes plans for its future use as a public riverfront park with the added benefits of ecological habitat restoration and storm water management best practices.

On Friday July 11, 2008, Independence Mayor Gregory Kurtz, in collaboration with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Trust for Public Land, the George Gund Foundation, the Natural Resources Assistance Council of Cuyahoga County, the Clean Ohio Fund, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Transportation and other partners, will begin the demolition of the industrial buildings to begin the restoration.

When completed, West Creek will return to its original meandering flow into the Cuyahoga

River with natural wetlands to reduce upstream flooding, clean local drinking water, and restored wildlife habitats. The new park will connect the West Creek Greenway to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail, provide new access to the creek and river for all, and lead to economic revitalization of this part of the city of Independence. This project will contribute greatly to the continuing restoration of the Cuyahoga River, one of the 14 federally designated American Heritage Rivers.

The benefits of the West Creek Confluence Project are numerous. Locally, it will reclaim underutilized industrial property, create a new and dynamic recreation area along the National Scenic Byway, restore a more natural hydrology to Lower West Creek, create an area for urban ecology to flourish, retain and filter storm water which will mitigate the effects of flooding, and reduce non-point source pollution entering into West Creek and the Cuyahoga River. From a regional perspective, the West Creek Confluence Project will work to herald in a new era of sustainable redevelopment within the Lower Cuyahoga River Valley, capitalizing on recreational and commercial uses that still allow for a functioning floodplain with a high degree of ecological diversity, flood storage and habitat connectivity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the beauty and regional ecologic importance of the West Creek Confluence and the pivotal project now underway to ensure it returns to its former natural prominence.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6304

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss my support of H.R. 6304—The FISA Amendments Act of 2008.

From the Revolutionary War to the tragedy of 9/11, America's quest for freedom is what defines us. It is imperative that we never forget those who died for our liberty, nor can we ignore the failures of our own intelligence leading up to that day in September 7 years ago. Balancing civil liberties and protecting our national security has been a 232 year struggle that represents the core of this great Nation.

As such, the year-long debate this body engaged in updating FISA has hinged on a question that rests at the heart of American democracy since its founding: how do we keep our Nation safe, while at the same time ensuring the preservation of those Constitutional freedoms that we hold dear? It was Benjamin Franklin who warned that those who sacrifice liberty for a little security deserve neither.

When the first effort to amend FISA—The Protect America Act—came before this House in August of 2007, I voted against that deeply flawed bill because it did not ensure proper protection of our civil liberties, nor did it provide the appropriate check over the executive branch. In fact, neither the Protect America Act, nor the subsequent "Senate compromise," included essential oversight provisions. Those bills, rather, sought to minimize the role of the FISA court, removing any form